

VIRTUAL MULTIPOINT CONTROL UNITS**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

5 A video teleconferencing system for controlling multiple
multipoint control units (MCU) from a single apparatus. The system
utilizes a Virtual MCU (VMCU) (110) to communicate with a
plurality of MCUs (135, 140, 145). A user initiates a reserve
conference command with the VMCU (110). If sufficient resources
10 are available, the reservation is made and connection numbers are
assigned. When the time for the conference arises, an MCU (135,
140, 145) is assigned to the conference. The participants are then
connected to the conference. By using a single VMCU (110) to
schedule and coordinate multiple MCUs (135, 140, 145), the present
15 invention is able to efficiently schedule a large number of
conferences. This greater efficiency in scheduling may allow users to
schedule conferences without the advance notice that is usually
required.

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